This is in addition to the facility/option of exercising their vote through postal ballot.

Misuse of POTA

2275. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Members of Parliament to prevent the misuse of POTA;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is proposed to make suitable amendments in POTA to prevent the use of its provisions for political vendetta and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) No formal representation has been made by any Member of Parliament citing any particular case in which Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (POTA) has been misused. However, apprehensions were expressed by some Members of Parliament about possible misuse of POTA at the time of consideration of the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha as well as in the Joint sitting of the two Houses. In the context of arrest of MDMK leader Shri Vaiko, some Members have again raised the issue of misuse of POTA in the Parliament.

Since necessary safeguards are available in the Act against its possible misuse, no change is contemplated in the provisions of POTA.

Proposal to include Dogri in the Eighth Schedule

2276. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 661 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill, to include Dogri language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, during the current session of Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?